

House File 2188 - Introduced

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BY KAUFMANN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to classroom placement of multiple birth
2 siblings by school districts.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 279.11, Code 2014, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **279.11 Number of schools — attendance — terms placement.**

4 1. The board of directors shall determine the number of
5 schools to be taught, divide the corporation into such wards or
6 other divisions for school purposes as may be proper, determine
7 the particular school which each child shall attend, determine
8 grade level and classroom assignment for each student, and
9 designate the period each school shall be held beyond the time
10 required by law.

11 2. a. The parent or guardian of multiple birth siblings
12 who are assigned to the same grade level and school by a
13 school district may request in writing that the school place
14 the siblings in the same classroom or in separate classrooms.
15 The request must be made no later than five days before the
16 first day of each school year or within five days after the
17 first day of attendance of students during the school year if
18 the students are enrolled in the school after the school year
19 commences.

20 b. The school may recommend to the parent or guardian the
21 appropriate classroom placement for multiple birth siblings
22 and may provide professional educational advice to assist the
23 parent or guardian with the decision regarding appropriate
24 classroom placement.

25 c. A school shall provide the multiple birth siblings with
26 the classroom placement requested by the parent or guardian.
27 However, a school is not required to place multiple birth
28 siblings in the same classroom if any of the following apply:

29 (1) Factual evidence of performance shows proof that the
30 multiple birth siblings should be separated.

31 (2) The request would require the school district to add
32 an additional class to the grade level of the multiple birth
33 siblings.

34 (3) At the end of the first grading period following the
35 multiple birth siblings' enrollment in the school, if the

1 principal of the school, in consultation with the teacher of
2 each classroom in which the multiple birth siblings are placed,
3 determines that the requested classroom placement is disruptive
4 to the school.

5 d. A parent or guardian may appeal the principal's classroom
6 placement of multiple birth siblings to the board of directors
7 of the school district. During an appeal, the multiple birth
8 siblings shall remain in the classroom chosen by the parent or
9 guardian.

10 e. This section does not affect any of the following:

11 (1) A right or obligation under chapter 256B or under the
12 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C.
13 §1400 et seq., regarding the individual placement decisions of
14 the school district.

15 (2) The right of a school district, principal, or teacher to
16 remove a student from a classroom pursuant to school district
17 student discipline policies.

18 f. As used in this subsection, the term "multiple birth
19 siblings" means twins, triplets, quadruplets, or other siblings
20 resulting from a multiple birth.

21 EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill authorizes the board of directors of a school
25 district to determine grade level and classroom assignment for
26 each student and authorizes the parent or guardian of multiple
27 birth siblings to request in writing that the school place the
28 siblings in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. The
29 school must provide the classroom placement requested by the
30 parent or guardian, but the bill provides for exceptions.

31 A school is not required to place multiple birth siblings
32 in the same classroom if facts prove the siblings should be
33 separated, or the request would require the school district to
34 add an additional class, or if after the first grading period
35 following the siblings' enrollment the principal and classroom

1 teacher or teachers determine that the requested placement is
2 disruptive to the school.

3 The school may make recommendations and provide professional
4 educational advice to the parent or guardian regarding such
5 classroom placement. A parent or guardian may appeal the
6 principal's classroom placement of the siblings to the school
7 board. During an appeal, the siblings shall remain in the
8 classroom chosen by the parent or guardian.

9 The provisions relating to classroom placement of multiple
10 birth siblings does not affect a right or obligation under
11 Code chapter 256B, relating to special education, or under the
12 federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or the
13 right of a school district, principal, or teacher to remove a
14 student from a classroom pursuant to school district student
15 discipline policies.